

In the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A recombinant human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1), wherein the natural signal sequence (NSS) of the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein gp120 of the virus is replaced with a signal sequence selected from the group consisting of mellitin signal sequence (MSS) and interleukin 3 signal sequence (ILSS).

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

- 2 ~~6~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
- 3 ~~7~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ~~6~~² wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

Claims 8-30 (canceled)

- 4 ~~31~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the MSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 9.
- 5 ~~32~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the ILSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 10.
- 6 ~~33~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ~~31~~⁴ wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
- 7 ~~34~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ~~32~~⁵ wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.
- 8 ~~35~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ~~33~~⁶ wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.
- 9 ~~36~~. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ~~34~~⁶ wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.
- 10 ~~37~~. (currently amended) A ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ~~35~~⁶.
- 11 ~~38~~. (currently amended) An ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ~~34~~⁷.
- 12 ~~39~~. (currently amended) An ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ~~35~~⁸.
- 13 ~~40~~. (currently amended) An ~~vaccine~~immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ~~36~~⁹.